



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HQ WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER (AFMC)
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE GEORGIA

31 Jan 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION


FROM: PKP

SUBJECT: Acquisition Method Suffix Code (AMSC) "Z" Commercial Items

1. Pursuant to the DoD Spare Parts Breakout Program, an AMSC "Z" is assigned to an item that is commercial in nature and generally sold competitively. The assignment of a "Z" code is not in itself justification to acquire that specific National Stock Number (NSN) when a requirement generates. When possible, a Commercial Item Description (CID), Purchase Description (PD) or other document completely describing the item, should be prepared and the requirement competed using Full and Open Competition or Small Business Set-Aside, as applicable. This document should be detailed enough for potential sources to determine if they have a commercial item that meets the Government's needs. Otherwise, market research appropriate to the circumstances should be conducted to determine if another item is available or could be modified to meet the Government's needs or could meet the Government's requirements if those requirements were modified to a reasonable extent. When market research (conducted in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 10) finds no other item available that could meet the Government's minimum needs, results should be fully documented using one of the required written justifications described in FAR 6.303, 6.304 and Air Force FAR Supplement (AFFARS) 5313.106-1. Under Simplified Acquisition Procedures, AFFARS 5313.106-1 states that a separate sole source justification is not required, provided screening has been accomplished and documented in accordance with the DoD Spare Parts Breakout Program (DFARS Appendix E); this is *not* applicable to "Z" coded items, since they are commercial items sold competitively in the commercial market.

2. Situations may occur where a "Z" coded item must be acquired sole source from the only known manufacturer of that specific item, such as when the item is part of a next higher assembly and no other item would work. These cases would require a Sole Source Justification or Justification & Approval (J&A) as applicable.

3. If you have any questions, you may contact Margie Stanley, extension 6-6725 or Jim Tomberlin, extension 6-1735.


KIMBERLY MCDONALD
Acting Chief, Contract Policy and
Competition Advocate Division
Directorate of Contracting

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